

A New *Plesiophthalmus* Species (Coleoptera,  
Tenebrionidae) from Taiwan

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**Abstract** A new species of the genus *Plesiophthalmus* found in northern and central Taiwan is described under the name *Plesiophthalmus chujoi* sp. nov.

It is well known that the late Dr. Michio CHÛJÔ was interested in the beetles of the family Tenebrionidae and that he was also interested in the dung beetle fauna of Taiwan. Though I have never had an opportunity to see him personally, I am a follower of his in entomological study, and have been studying about darkling and dung beetles and also about the fauna of Southeast Asia.

On this occasion, I would like to dedicate a new Taiwanese species of the family Tenebrionidae to the late Dr. Michio CHÛJÔ in this small paper. I collected a single specimen of the beetle in northern Taiwan. Before going further, I thank Dr. Makoto KIUCHI, Tsukuba City, for taking clear photographs inserted in this paper. Appreciation should be expressed to Dr. Chi-Feng LEE, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, and Dr. Chun-Lin LI, National Taiwan University, for arranging the field research in the Botanical Garden, Ilan Hsien, northern Taiwan.

*Plesiophthalmus chujoi* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–3)

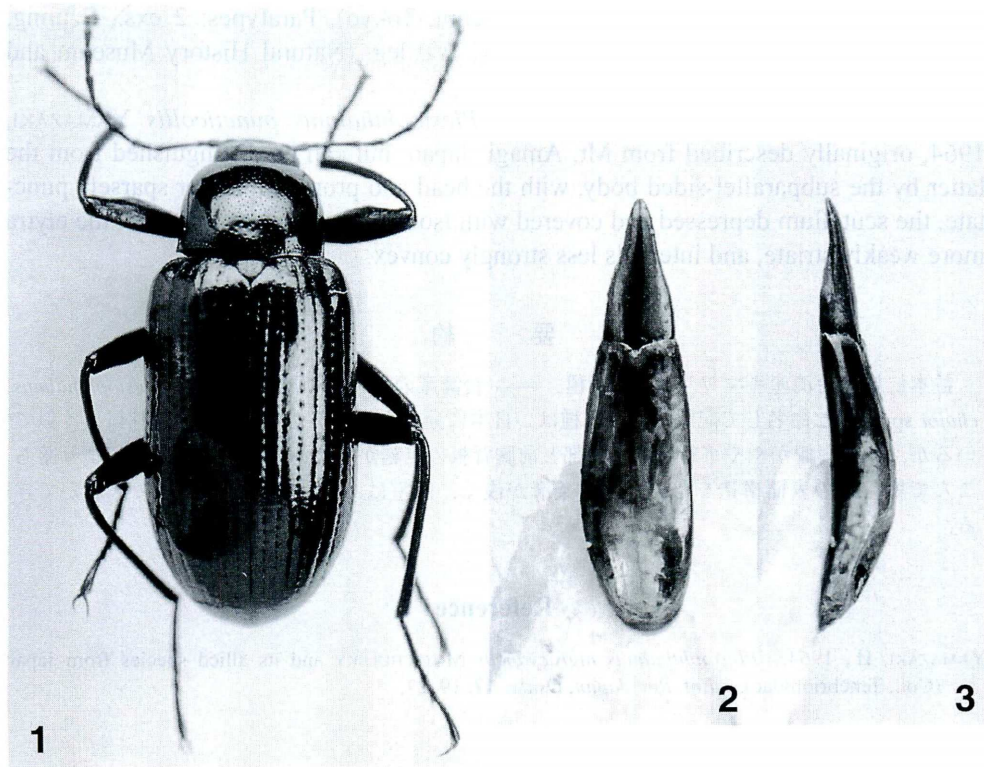
Brownish black, with head, pronotum, scutellum and elytra brassy and rather strongly shining, ventral surface alutaceous; each surface almost glabrous. Body oblong-ovate, somewhat subparallel-sided, strongly convex above.

Head subdecagonal, weakly covered with isodiametric microsculpture, rather sparsely scattered with small punctures; clypeus transversely hexagonal, gently inclined forwards, fronto-clypeal border widely, straightly grooved in middle, bent forwards and extending to the outer margins; genae oblique, moderately raised outwards, with outer margins obtusely produced; frons flattened, inclined forwards, depressed in an area behind fronto-clypeal border, feebly impressed along median line in posterior part, diatone slightly wider than the width of the diameter of an eye; dorsal part of neck closely and finely punctate. Eyes rather transversely comma-shaped in dorsal

view, gently convex laterad, roundly inlaid into head. Antennae filiform, reaching the middle of elytra, ratio of the length of each segment from base to apex: 0.29, 0.18, 0.77, 0.39, 0.54, 0.49, 0.51, 0.52, 0.38, 0.39, 0.52.

Pronotum rather trapezoidal, 1.32 times as wide as long, gently produced laterad, widest at the middle; apex feebly emarginate, clearly bordered, the border interrupted at the middle; base weakly produced in middle, truncate opposite to scutellum, gently sinuous on each side; sides steeply declined to lateral margins, which are finely rimmed, the rim invisible from above; front angles subrectangular, hind angles obtusely angulate; disc convex, obliquely, weakly impressed near base on each side, minutely punctate (visible under  $\times 40$ ), sparsely scattered with much larger punctures, those in lateral and posterior parts becoming denser, with a short shallow longitudinal groove along median line. Scutellum triangular with feebly rounded sides, weakly depressed, covered with isodiametric microsculpture, sparsely scattered with small punctures.

Elytra subparallel-sided, very feebly constricted at basal 1/3, 1.78 times as long as wide, 3.47 times the length and 1.37 times the width of pronotum, widest at apical 3/8;



Figs. 1-3. — 1. Habitus of *Plesiophthalmus chujoi* sp. nov., holotype, male. — 2-3. Male genitalia; 2, dorsal view, 3, lateral view.

dorsum strongly convex, highest at basal 1/3, weakly, obliquely depressed in areas behind scutellum; disc punctato-striate, the striae shallow and often interrupted in internal parts, those in lateral parts becoming deeper, 5th stria reaching base, the punctures rather small in internal parts, those in lateral parts becoming larger and stronger, often forming foveae; intervals almost flattened and very weakly wrinkled in internal parts, those in lateral and posterior parts convex and rather noticeably, somewhat transversely wrinkled; humeri weakly swollen; apices feebly, roundly produced.

Male anal sternite finely pubescent in apical part, slightly truncate at apex. Profemur with anterior face distinctly angulate at apical 1/3; male protibia gently prolonged and curved, with interior face gouged in basal 3/7; ratios of the lengths of pro-, meso- and metatarsomeres: 0.32, 0.23, 0.22, 0.20, 0.68; 0.47, 0.28, 0.22, 0.18, 0.79; 0.91, 0.29, 0.19, 0.88.

Male genitalia subfusiform, 2.21 mm in length, 0.48 mm in width; basal piece curved in middle in lateral view; fused lateral lobes nib-shaped, 0.62 mm in length, with acute apices.

Body length: 8.60 mm.

Holotype: ♂, Fushan Botanical Garden, Ilan Hsien, N. Taiwan, 7~8-V-2004, K. MASUMOTO leg. (National Science Museum, Tokyo). Paratypes: 2 exs., Szuling, Nantou Hsien, C. Taiwan, 4-IX-1991, C.-K. YU leg. (Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba).

*Notes.* This new species resembles *Plesiophthalmus puncticollis* YAMAZAKI, 1964, originally described from Mt. Amagi, Japan, but can be distinguished from the latter by the subparallel-sided body, with the head and pronotum rather sparsely punctate, the scutellum depressed and covered with isodiametric microsculpture, the elytra more weakly striate, and intervals less strongly convex.

## 要 約

益本仁雄：台湾産キマワリ属の1新種。——台湾産のキマワリ属の1新種を *Plesiophthalmus chujoi* sp. nov. と命名して記載した。本種は、日本に分布するカラカネヒメキマワリによく似ているが、体の両側がやや平行状で、頭部と前胸背板の点刻が疎であり、小盾板が上翅より落ちこんで網目状の表面構造をし、上翅の条溝が浅く、間室はあまり隆起しない点で区別ができる。

## Reference

- YAMAZAKI, H., 1964. *Plesiophthalmus nigrocyaneus* MOTSCHULSKY and its allied species from Japan (Col., Tenebrionidae). *Ent. Rev. Japan, Osaka*, **17**: 19-27.